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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 000965

SIPDIS

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE AND IPA. NSC FOR SHAPIRO/KUMAR. JOINT
STAFF FOR LTGEN SELVA

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [IS](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#)
SUBJECT: NEW HOME DEMOLITIONS AND DEMOLITION ORDERS IN
JERUSALEM

REF: A. JERUSALEM 686
[1](#)B. JERUSALEM 491
[1](#)C. 07 JERUSALEM 1717

Classified By: Deputy Principal Officer Greg Marchese, for reasons 1.4
(b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. According to the Israeli Committee
Against House Demolitions (ICAHN), two home demolitions were
carried out in Jerusalem's Old City on June 9. One was an
apartment in the Christian Quarter, and the other a
second-floor addition in the Muslim Quarter. ICAHN also
reported that the Israeli High Court of Justice (HCJ)
approved on June 8 a demolition order for an East Jerusalem
community center near E-1 that has been demolished five times
previously. The PA Minister for Jerusalem Affairs said home
demolition orders were issued on June 7 and 8 for two East
Jerusalem buildings, one housing 100 Palestinians, and the
other housing 60 Palestinians.
End summary.

Two Demolitions Carried Out in Old City

[1](#)2. (C) Jerusalem City Council member and Coordinator for
ICAHN Meir Margalit told PolOff on June 9 that demolition
orders were carried out that day on two homes in Jerusalem's
Old City. Margalit said the first was a 25-square-meter
apartment on Via Delorosa in the Christian Quarter. It
housed the Palestinian owner's nine family members. The
second, an 85-square-meter second-floor addition to a
Palestinian home near Damascus Gate in the Muslim Quarter,
was self-demolished by the owners in order to avoid a heavy
fine.

[1](#)3. (C) Margalit said the HCJ on June 8 approved a
demolition order for a community center in Anata, a
Palestinian neighborhood within Jerusalem but east of the
separation barrier, and the site of a number of home
demolitions (ref C). Margalit said the community center,
known locally as "Beit Arabiya," is managed by ICAHN, and has
been demolished five times previously. He said ICAHN has
tried multiple times to obtain a license for "Beit Arabiya."
When the applications were rejected, he appealed to the HCJ.
He opined that ICAHN cannot obtain the building permits
because Anata lies between the E-1 area and Jerusalem, with
"Beit Arabiya" just 300 meters northwest of E-1. He said he
is preparing a formal letter requesting USG assistance to
prevent demolition of the building.

PA Describes New Demolition Orders

[1](#)4. (C) PA Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Hatem Abdul Qader
told PolSpec that the Jerusalem Municipality issued on June 7

new demolition orders for an apartment building housing approximately 100 Palestinians in a building in the Beit Hanina neighborhood of East Jerusalem. Abdul Qader said the Municipality also issued on June 8 demolition orders for an apartment building housing approximately 60 Palestinians in the A'-Tur neighborhood of East Jerusalem. Abdul Qader said the Palestinian owner built the building 17 years ago. Abdul Qader said the PA Ministry for Jerusalem Affairs will follow up on both cases and hire lawyers to challenge the orders. He called the orders "a continuation of Israel's liquidation of legitimate residents from their homes."

WALLES